



Good Works, Inc. — A Community of Hope

Celebrating 31 Years!

PO Box 4, Athens, OH 45701
Phone: 740-594-3339
Email: goodworks@good-works.net
Web: www.good-works.net

Keith Wasserman, Founder/Executive Director

*"I made the WIDOW'S heart sing, I took up the case of the STRANGER, I was a father to the FATHERLESS."
(Job 29:12-13)*

Good day, friends!

June 2011

Close your eyes for a moment. Listen closely to hear all of us saying, *"THANK YOU!"*



We write with a smile to remind you that your gracious and ever-so-consistent support gives us joyful hearts! Your gifts allow us the daily privilege of blessing people who are experiencing the vulnerability of poverty here in Appalachian Ohio.

Not pictured: Joshua Jones, Steven Barth, Pete Finney and Jeffrey Fitzwater

What does vulnerability feel like? You may know well. For one of our friends, an older woman, it is the reality of facing sickness, surgery and hospitalization completely alone. For another, it means beginning adulthood without a high school diploma. This young man became so discouraged about the extra years it would take to complete his studies that he dropped out.

As a community seeking to make Jesus the center of our life, we believe God's passion is to bring tangible hope to each person who is straining under a burden of loneliness and pain. Indeed, we want to become a *community of hope* in which our time, affection, friendship and resources are available to each other and to those in need.

This summer, the Good Works community is expanding in capacity for this very purpose. Through *Summer Service*, we will invite a team of young adults to join us for an intensive internship focused on a deepened love for God and for those on the margins of our society.

The interns' leadership will enable us to host seven groups who are participating in what we call *Work Retreats*—a weeklong immersion into Christian community and practical service. Through a joint effort between the staff, interns and volunteers, we will offer a summer-full of fun and education to kids, many of whom have few such opportunities. Each day, *Kids' Discovery Club* concludes with a nutritious meal that is free and open to all.

With the extra boost of ready summer-time help, we will continue to serve our friends who are facing old age, disability and life alone. It's these simple things that really do bring encouragement: a reassuring phone call, visiting on the front porch, helping to mow the grass, and home repairs large and small.

Last but not least, we hope to begin our third annual *Teen Agricultural Internship* this month. Our goal is to equip local youth ages 14 to 17 with intentional mentoring, training in growing food, and a stipend for their efforts. We are particularly concerned about including teenagers whose families lack finances and stability, and want to provide healthy outlets for these soon-to-be-adults to contribute to others. One of their summer tasks will include starting and maintaining vegetable gardens at the homes of our neighbors in the rural sections Athens County who would have difficulty doing so on their own. We are very excited about these many possibilities for fruitfulness this summer—in produce, in friendship and in the deep matters of the spirit!

—Dawn Tobin

IN THE NEWS...

- We would like to send you our new **Community of Hope** brochure which tells so much more of the story of Good Works. Just call or e-mail us to say you'd like to receive one!
- We still have a few openings for individuals to come and serve with us this summer through our **Week of Service** internship. Check out more information on our website, under the link called "Internships."
- In September, we plan to welcome new interns into our 9-month **Appalachian Immersion** internship. Do you know someone who might be interested in growing in faith, service and leadership? Have them contact us!
- At the **Timothy House**, we are experiencing a very challenging situation right now. We ask for your prayers and encouragement as we struggle with the ongoing grief of having to turn so many people away who are in need of shelter.
- **Senior Friends** is our initiative to match local volunteers with seniors, some of whom are homebound or widowed. We are looking for volunteers who are interested in forming this kind of friendship with a senior citizen.
- **Training for Life** is the computer training class we offer twice a week at the Timothy House. We welcome volunteers to assist us in this effort.
- There are 147 people on the waiting list to volunteer their time to serve others, and in exchange, obtain a car through the **Transformation Station**. We would very much appreciate any help you can provide in spreading the word about our need for cars.
- Did you know that you can give to Good Works through our secure website? Click on "Make a Donation."

As I reflect on the coming summer, I am particularly aware of how Good Works really is a faith-based organization: we plan and carry out all these efforts *in glad faith* that God will provide both the right people and the resources to do so. It's a matter of trust! We feel so very grateful that you are standing with us.

Love is a verb,



Keith Wasserman